

## I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a glass rod, which is a parent material of an optical fiber, comprising:

adjusting an axis of an apparatus for elongating a base material, which is a parent material of said glass rod, by adjusting a vertical inclination of a standard rod having a predetermined straightness, wherein the standard rod is placed in a hanging mechanism and an elongating mechanism of the device to adjust an axis;

removing the standard rod; and

heating and elongating said base material along an axis of said standard rod, said vertical inclination of which is adjusted, to generate said glass rod.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said base material is elongated with a furnace which heats said base material, [a] wherein said hanging mechanism ~~which~~ supplies said base material to said furnace, and [an] wherein said elongating mechanism ~~which~~ pulls said base material heated by said furnace along said axis of said standard rod to produce said glass rod, and wherein said adjusting said vertical inclination includes:

holding said standard rod by said hanging mechanism; and

adjusting a vertical inclination of said standard rod held by said hanging mechanism to be a vertical direction.

Claim 3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said adjusting said vertical inclination further includes:

holding said standard rod by said elongating mechanism; and

adjusting a vertical inclination of said standard rod held by said elongating mechanism to be a vertical direction.

Claim 4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said adjusting said vertical inclination further includes:

holding said standard rod by both of said hanging mechanism and said elongating mechanism; and

adjusting a vertical inclination of said standard rod held by both of said hanging mechanism and said elongating mechanism to be a vertical direction.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said base material is elongated with a furnace which heats said base material, **[a]** wherein said hanging mechanism ~~which~~ supplies said base material to said furnace, and **[an]** wherein said elongating mechanism ~~which~~ pulls said base material heated by said furnace along said axis of said standard rod to produce said glass rod, and wherein said adjusting said vertical inclination includes:

holding said standard rod by said elongating mechanism; and

adjusting a vertical inclination of said standard rod held by said elongating mechanism to be a vertical direction.

Claim 6. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said adjusting said vertical inclination further includes:

holding said standard rod by said elongating mechanism; and

adjusting a vertical inclination of said standard rod held by said elongating mechanism to be a vertical direction.

Claim 7. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said adjusting said vertical inclination further includes:

holding said standard rod by both of said hanging mechanism and said elongating mechanism; and

adjusting a vertical inclination of said standard rod held by both of said hanging mechanism and said elongating mechanism to be a vertical inclination.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said base material is elongated with a furnace which heats said base material, **[a]** wherein said hanging mechanism ~~which~~ supplies said base material to said furnace, and **[an]** wherein said elongating mechanism ~~which~~ pulls said base material heated by said furnace along said axis of said standard rod to produce said glass rod, and wherein said adjusting said vertical inclination includes:

holding said standard rod by both of said hanging mechanism and said elongating mechanism; and

adjusting a vertical inclination of said standard rod held by both of said hanging mechanism and said elongating mechanism to be a vertical direction.

**Claim 9. (Original)** A method as claimed in claim 5 or 8, wherein said elongating mechanism holds an approximate center of longitudinal direction of said standard rod during said adjusting said vertical inclination.

**Claim 10. (Original)** A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said adjusting said vertical inclination of said standard rod held by both of said hanging mechanism and said elongating mechanism to be less than approximately 0.5 mm per 1 m length.

**Claims 11-13. (Canceled)**

**Claim 14. (Previously Presented)** A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said standard rod is ceramic or metal.